

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
PENNSYLVANIA
DIVERSITY
NETWORKSINCE
IN 1998BOB & FRANK ARE
PARADE GRAND MARSHALS
SEE PAGE 2

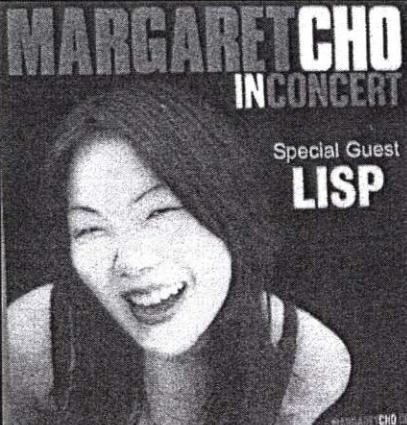
VALLEY GAY PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY & BERKS COUNTY'S
GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL & TRANSGENDER
COMMUNITY OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 9 NO. 6

PRIDE - JULY 2006

PRIDE MEANS BELIEVING YOU DESERVE EQUAL RIGHTS

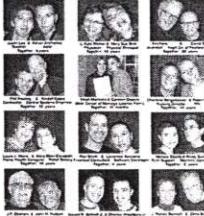


SEE COMEDIAN
MARGARET CHO
IN CONCERT
THEN MEET & GREET
MARGARET
UP CLOSE & PERSONAL
AFTER HER SHOW JULY 6 AT
EASTON'S STATE THEATRE
READ ABOUT THIS SPECIAL
PA DIVERSITY EVENT ON PAGE 2.
YOU CAN GET TICKETS TODAY
AT THE PDN -- VGP BOOTH
HERE AT THE FESTIVAL

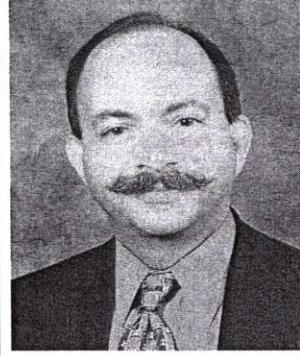
Special Guest
LISP



**JOE SOLMONESE - HUMAN RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN PRES., DARYL
HERRSCHAFT OF HRC, LV COUNTY
EXEC. DON CUNNINGHAM
& GLOW OF PPL FOUNDER
DONNA CRUCIANI AT THE HRC
PRESENTATION AT PPL IN ALLENTOWN**



**COUPLES
GET YOUR
PICTURE TAKEN
RIGHT NOW
AT THE PDN BOOTH FOR THE
PHOTO PROJECT
100 COUPLES:
FACING
INEQUALITY
READ MORE ABOUT
IT ON PAGE B**



CHARLES VERSAGGI

Allentown City has arranged for longtime Air Products employee Charlie Versaggi to work on a one year computer/web systems project. Air Products will continue to pay Charlie's salary, while the city gets the benefit of his knowledge. Charlie is a long time leader of the GLBT Air Products employee group GLEE, has been a constant supporter of FACT, a member of PA-GALA and PA Diversity Network and he ran for and was elected to Allentown School Board as an openly gay candidate.

**MELISSA
ETHERIDGE**
AUGUST 9 SPECIAL PDN EVENT
TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE
SEE PAGE A. 4, 11



LOCAL GRASSROOTS ACTIVISTS SUGGEST
**TAKE OUT YOUR CELL
PHONE RIGHT NOW
CALL YOUR STATE SENATOR...**
**ASK THEM TO
VOTE NO
ON THE STATE
CONSTITUTIONAL
AMENDMENT**
FOR A LIST OF SENATORS PHONE NUMBERS STOP BY THE PDN BOOTH

GLBT Infoline
Greater Lehigh Valley 
610-HELP-123
(610-435-7123)

BECOME A PDN MEMBER TO RECEIVE THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IN THE MAIL, SEE PAGE 5

What's That About?

Readers write or email "What's That About" editor Liz Bradbury with questions about GLBT issues.

Dear WTA, I've heard that circumcision can effect whether a man is less at risk for HIV/AIDS. Is this true? **Signed Med Student**

Dear Med, Yes, it's very true. A new study in South Africa has found that circumcision reduces men's risk of H.I.V. infection by more than 65 percent. If the results are confirmed by two similar studies in progress, circumcision may offer a way to curb the AIDS explosion in some of the most affected nations.

The study, by French and South African researchers, recruited young men who were HIV-negative and uncircumcised, as are most men in South Africa. Half were randomly assigned to be circumcised. After adjustment for other factors, circumcision reduced the risk of HIV infection by two-thirds during the 21 months of the study. The difference was so great that the trial was stopped and the other men were immediately offered circumcision. Two similar studies with very different groups of people are under way in Uganda and Kenya. It may take two years to get results.

The most likely theory about why circumcision works is that the penis's foreskin has cells that are particularly receptive to the AIDS virus. The studies are looking at only whether circumcision protects men from infection. Circumcised men may also be less likely to transmit the virus, but the current studies are not examining that. Even if circumcision doesn't make a man less contagious, it helps protect everyone by lowering the infection rate.

DON'T MISS MARGARET CHO

See radical comedian Margaret Cho in concert and then meet and greet Margaret up close and personal, after her show July 6 at Easton's State Theatre.

\$60 Ticket price includes:

An excellent orchestra section seat to Margaret's Concert Show on Thursday, July 6. And a special ticket to meet and greet with Margaret after the show in a small reception room. This intimate Margaret Cho meet and greet is available to Pennsylvania Diversity Network members only. (But a PDN membership costs only \$15 individual and \$20 family and brings you a subscription to the Valley Gay Press and other special benefits all year long.) Call Liz Bradbury at PA Diversity Network at 610-432-5449 to purchase your tickets. There are only 50 tickets. They will sell out fast, call now!

FOUNTAINHEAD BOOKS

Fountainhead Books & Gifts is an indie bookstore carrying poetry, feminism, GLBT, philosophy, recovery, race, religion, sex, sociology and art. The store also carries bumper stickers, buttons and t-shirts. Enjoy a supportive atmosphere for all your subversive needs! Special orders welcome. Fountainhead will be hosting a PDN Photo Project 100 Couples Photo Shoot on June 20 from 6pm to 9pm. 641 Penn Ave, West Reading, PA 19611, 610-898-1555, www.fountainheadbooks.com. Fountainhead is a VGP drop-off spot.

2

RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My partner and I expect to move in together. This isn't your typical U-haul type of deal. We are facing a few challenges. Which home should we live in? What roles should each of us play in running the household? I love my grandmother's wagon-wheel coffee table and he obviously, does not. Any advice for our joint venture? **Signed, In Emotional Bliss**

Dear Emotional Bliss, One topic that partners often overlook in their new adventure is money. No matter how optimistic you are about your new arrangement, it's important for both you and your partner to protect your finances in case things just don't work out. The same would be true in a straight couple's new relationship. Consider committing yourself to these five rules.

Rule #1: Talk about money -- Communication about money matters needs to be an open discussion when you're planning a merger. Make a date to specifically discuss your finances. You should share your attitudes toward money, your financial priorities, your spending and saving habits, and your short- and long-term goals.

Rule #2: Keep your finances separate -- When it comes to controlling your personal finances, you should hold the reins. Do not consider commingling your debt or apply for a joint credit card -- one bad move by your partner, could damage your credit report. Be reluctant about combining your bank or investment accounts. In case of a breakup, you could end up in a costly legal battle over the assets. Or, even worse, your boyfriend could clean out your account and hit the road, leaving you with a broken heart, a mountain of bills, and little to pay them with. FYI, the state of New Jersey does provide significant protections to same sex partners who jointly own their home and decide to sell it.

Rule #3: Put your arrangement in writing -- This little piece of paper can help keep your trial of domestic bliss from becoming a nightmare. Detail how much each partner will pay for what expenses and when. The documents proclaim to you, your partner, your family, your community and the legal system that, though you cannot legally marry in PA, your relationship is important and valid enough that you're willing to put it in writing. When you are ready, remember nonresidents can get a VT or CT Civil Union, or marry in Canada, or you can marry in Massachusetts (if you live there). Though these won't give you rights in PA, they will document your commitment to each other and give you rights if you choose to live in these places at a later date.

Rule #4: Keep major purchases separate and documented -- Because you don't have the same legal protections as married couples in case of a split, it's smart to keep track of who paid what toward a major purchase.

Rule #5: Be smart about housing -- Don't even think about buying a home together unless you're both certain you're ready to make a long-term commitment to each other - and to homeownership. Generally, you need to own a home three to five years to recoup the costs of buying. Consult a real estate attorney to help you work out the legalities and a fair selling agreement in case of a breakup. Consider renting out your old pad, rather than selling it at least initially, until you are sure you can stand your partner's quirks in such close quarters.

Denise McKelvey CFS is a financial advisor for Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. located at 5100 Tilghman St Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please e-mail your questions to Denise.M.Mckelvey@ampf.com.

PRIDE DOGGIE DRAG SHOW

The Pride in the Park Doggie Drag Show will make its debut in 2006! The show will take place at 6:30pm on the Pride in the Park Stage. The participants will be judged in three categories: "Most Creative", "Pet & Pet Owner Look Alike", and "Biggest Diva"; prizes will be awarded for each category.

HOT NEWS

HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS: every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQI youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenuyouthgroup@hotmail.com or 610-868-2153.

THE FEDERAL ANTI-MARRIAGE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT WAS DEFEATED IN THE SENATE. PA SEN. ARLEN SPECTER VOTED AGAINST THE AMENDMENT.

PFLAG NEWS

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-papflag.org. e-mail: info@eastern-papflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 3rd. Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234. Meeting Dates: Allentown: July 9, Monroe: June 21, July 19 Reading: Summer Break, Pottstown: June 22, July 20

STEVIE Z

See Allentown's own 'Stevie Z' appearing at the Stonewall/MooseLounge piano bar (28 N. 10th St. Allentown). This is a great way to socialize and have a nice time in the redecorated MooseLounge. 1/2 of June tips collected will go to Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. For dates & times see steviez.tripod.com.

MUHLENBERG

SUMMER MUSIC THEATRE
26th ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF MUSICAL THEATRE: THE TAFFETAS by Rick Lewis - Rodgers and Hammerstein's CAROUSEL - and off-Broadway's I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE plus Musical Theatre for Children: MISS NELSON HAS A FIELD DAY -- Muhlenberg College, 2400 Chew Street, Allentown, Trexler Pavilion Box Office: 484-664-3333, hours: Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.. Online tickets and season information available at www.summertbroadway.org.

PRIDE ART SHOW

Don't miss the Pride Art Show during the Pride in the Park Festival on June 17. 10 artists will be exhibiting their work, and sales of some of the work of each artist will benefit Pride.

3



BOB WITTMAN & FRANK WHELAN PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALS

Pride has announced Frank Whelan and Bob Wittman as Pride Parade Grand Marshals. Bob and Frank celebrated their 25th anniversary as a couple on March 27, 2006. The selection of Frank and Bob furthers the positive and accurate portrayal of GLBT people in the media. Their commitment also supports legislation for marriage equality and advances an understanding of the need for equality for families headed by same-sex couples.

19TH ST MOVIES

LOOK BOTH WAYS -- June 10-18, in Theatre514: Mixing animation and live action, Look Both Ways follows the misadventures of Meryl (Justine Clarke), a woman who sees disaster everywhere. One day, Meryl is witness to a real accident that connects her to the lives of others affected by the tragedy.

FIND ME GUILTY -- June 17-25, in Theatre514: Perennially cheerful and always cracking wise, Jackie DiNorscio (Vin Diesel) is a notorious criminal who is serving time on his most recent conviction for cocaine trafficking when the Feds bring him in to offer him a deal.

DUCK SEASON -- June 14 - July 2, in Theatre514: Shot in black-and-white and on a minuscule budget, Fernando Eimbcke's film is a slice-of-life comedy that takes place over the course of one day in a Mexico City apartment.

WAH-WAH -- July 1-9, in Theatre514: Richard E. Grant directs an autobiographical film with a prestigious cast that features Gabriel Byrne, Miranda Richardson, Emily Watson, and Julie Walters.

Also coming soon: **A PRAIRIE HOME COMPANION**, July 15-23.

RAINBOW AA

Rainbow AA meetings Monday and Thursdays, 7:30pm 2nd flr, Church of the Mediator - 1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH EVENTS

MCC of the Lehigh Valley has proudly served the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allied community for over 20 years. Worship God just as you are at MCCLV! Driving directions to the church can be found at www.mcclv.org.

MCC worships EVERY Sunday of the year at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. EVERY Sunday at 9 a.m. the men of the church meet for a Men's Breakfast at the Bob Evans Restaurant located at I-78 and Lehigh St. Contact Dale Parkhurst for more information at dale.parkhurst@mcclv.org

EVERY Sunday offers good music at MCCLV. At the morning worship service, AM Music Director Tanya Erdman and MCCLV's Praise & Glory Singers lead the church in gospel and contemporary music pieces. At the evening worship service, Thom Ritter or Steve Ziminsky lead the congregation in traditional hymns.

Upcoming Events:

Church Picnic: Saturday, July 22, Noon - 6 p.m. at Emmaus Community Park For more information contact Stephanie O'Donnell at fellowship.ministry@mcclv.org

"Spiritual Heroes" Film Series: Six-part Summer Series - Let's Hear It For the Boys (to be followed next year with a film series on Women Spiritual Heroes) Wednesdays - 7 p.m. at the church. Join in lively debate and discussion about each movie

For more information, contact Beth Goudy at rev.goudy@mcclv.org

July 5 - "Gandhi," Part I

July 12 - "Gandhi," Part II

July 19 - "Billy Graham: God's Ambassador"

July 26 - Sir Thomas More, "A Man For All Seasons"

August 2 - Rev. Martin Luther King, "Eyes on the Prize"

August 9 - Archbishop Oscar Romero, "Romero"

MCC OCTOBER EVENTS

MCCLV's Annual Banquet is set for Saturday, October 7 at the Barrister's Club in Allentown. 6 p.m. - 11 p.m. Dinner and dancing.

And... Rev. Edgard Danielsen-Morales will be preaching at the worship services October 8 for MCCLV's 22nd Anniversary celebrations.

EASTON, PA IS NOW CONSIDERING AN ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE, STAY TUNED...

4 GLORA

GLORA (the Gay and Lesbian Organization of the Reading and Allentown areas) is a non-profit social group for adult men and women, both singles and couples. GLORA began in 1989 to help fill the social needs of gay and lesbian adults outside of the typical bar atmosphere. GLORA's activities range from potlucks, to game nights, bowling, movie nights, and holiday celebrations. Events are listed in a monthly newsletter that you will receive as a member. Some are family events that include children and some are just for adults. Specifics are noted in the GLORA newsletter. Members of GLORA may host events at their home or at an outdoor location if they desire. Hosting events is not mandatory to be a member. Membership: \$10 per household, annually - covers the cost of newsletter informing you of events and member's news.

Contact GLORA leaders at GLORA@dejazzd.com or write to: GLORA, PO Box 414, Fredrick PA 19435.

GLOSS EVENTS GLOSS TO HOLD SUMMER KICK OFF IN BERKS COUNTY

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) offers indoor & outdoor activities throughout the year. New GLBT and allied members are always welcome regardless of skill level.

The schedule is as follows,

Tennis: Every Sunday at 3:00pm at the Muhlenberg College courts

Racquetball: Every Thursday and Saturday, at 7:00pm at the Allentown Racquet Club.

Volleyball: Every Thursday at the sand courts in Catasauqua, at 7:00pm, starting June 22.

GLOSS would like to invite the community to the following event:

Camping Trip & Volleyball Tournament at the Woods Campground, July 14-16

GLOSS has an email newsletter that will keep you updated on all their events. To sign up for the newsletter go to the website.

GLOSS has helped to organize events in Berks County & the Lehigh Valley for many years and is always looking for people willing to be activity leaders. If your favorite activity is not listed, GLOSS will help you organize an event or outing by promoting it in the newsletter and website. GLOSS on the web: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org.

READING PFLAG (BERKS COUNTY)

Meets at 6:30, PM on the THIRD TUESDAY of each month, September through May at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Reading & Berks County 416 Franklin St., Reading PFLAG is on break for the summer.

For information or to confirm scheduled meetings in case of inclement weather call: 610.858.9278. For more PFLAG information call Help Lines: 610-967-5219, 215-368-2473 & 570-620-1234 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org or e-mail: info@eastern-pa-pflag.org.

Meeting Dates for Reading PFLAG through December 2006: June - (Summer Break), July - 9 (Picnic), August - (Summer Break), September 19, October 17, November 21, December - Holiday Break.

BERKS GSA

READING-BERKS GAY/STRAIGHT STUDENT ALLIANCE MEETINGS are held the second Monday of each month from 4:30 - 6:00PM at Atonement Lutheran Church Parish Center, Penn Avenue & Wyomissing Blvd., Wyomissing (accessible by bus - BARTA route 14W). Meetings are open to any interested students. For additional information, e-mail RBGSSA@hotmail.com.

PFLAG PICNIC JULY 9

The annual PFLAG picnic will be held in Macungie, Sunday, July 9 from 1:00 pm to about 6:00 pm. The GLBTA community of Berks, Lehigh, Monroe and Northampton and surrounding counties is welcome. This is a potluck, so please indicate what you'd like to bring by giving Melinda and Don Kohn a call at 610-967-5219 (or email Don at info@eastern-pa-pflag.org) to help coordinate the event. For directions, please call or email.

WOODS CAMPING WEEKEND

July 14-16 will be the combined GLORA/GLOSS camping trip and GLOSS volleyball tournament at The Woods Campground. The Woods Campground is near Beltzville and happens to be a favorite place of Melissa Etheridge, who speaks of it fondly. For more information about the camping weekend contact GLOSS GLOSS: www.gloss.org, or email: Info@gloss.org

GAY MEN'S CHORUS

2006-2007 Concert Season.

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus announces the "Acts of Love" 2006-2007 concert season:

November 18, 2006 - "The Gift of Love" at the Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.

January 26 and 27, 2007 - Cabaret "Love Songs and Other Fairy Tales" at the Stonewall, Allentown.

March 24, 2007 - "Unconditional Love" at the Wesley United Methodist Church, Bethlehem.

June 2, 2007 - "The Act of Love" at the Barristers' Club, Allentown.

Tickets for each concert are \$15 for Adults and \$10 for Seniors/Students. Adult season tickets (good for all four concerts) are \$50. Advanced Adult Group Sales tickets (10 or more) are \$13. Contact the LVGMC at 610-366-3320 to reserve your seat for a season of exceptional music under the leadership of Artistic Director Adam P. Koch.

Meet, Greet and Sing August 15th, 2006 - The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus will hold their first rehearsal of the 2006/2007 concert season at the Stonewall on August 15 starting at 7:30 PM. The Stonewall is located at 28th N 10th Street, Allentown, PA. For more information, call 610-366-3320.

FOR THE LATEST ON THE STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - SEE PAGE 7

**IF YOU ARE PART OF
A COMMITTED SAME-
SEX COUPLE AND
YOU MISSED THE
1ST PA DIVERSITY
NETWORK
PHOTO PROJECT:
FACING INEQUALITY
PHOTO SHOOT,
YOU CAN HAVE
YOUR PICTURE
TAKEN AT THE
PDN BOOTH AT
THE LV PRIDE
FESTIVAL - JUNE 17,
OR ON JUNE 20 AT
FOUNTAINHEAD
IN WEST READING**

SOOZ VIEWS

By Sue Sneeringer

PRIDEJOURNEY

Here we are again in June, our merry band together in groups large and small around the nation and the world. I'm writing this column the week of the big Senate debate...you know, the one about whether we are, as John Stewart so eloquently put it on The Daily Show the other night, "part of the human condition or just a random fetish..." We always relish these celebrations, the chance to flex our pride muscles. But I think it's important that we rejoice, too, in the simplicity of our daily lives, especially this year.

It's been a long, strange trip to the rejoicing, of course. One night, back in 1992, I learned a great lesson about growing up queer. I was visiting my parents' home from California. My father was very ill and as he slept fitfully upstairs, I watched TV, finding a Comedy Central special featuring six comedians, all gay or lesbian. I had put my first relationship with a political activist to bed, so to speak (learning the hard way to own my point of view), had started to embrace my identity, even understand why it had taken so long to get there. Watching and laughing alone in the dark that night, though, I almost ran to lock the door, suddenly self-conscious and embarrassed! I'd never seen this before. I was so new to the life I didn't even get all the jokes. Soon, I would understand my reaction. I'd been living in a society where I was culturally invisible. If an image of myself was there, it was typically a negative one, a side of "the Life" meant to demean it, make me feel bad about being queer. No wonder it was so hard for us to come out! I couldn't recognize myself in the world. It didn't take much to conclude that I did not belong. How important would that turn out to be? What would I do to belong? Not be a lesbian?

Once a teacher assigned me a scene in acting class. "Martha" in The Children's Hour. I was terrified the whole time that I'd been typecast. I'd seen the movie and felt sad, not getting until years later why the portrayal bothered so many of us, the same way we flinched when Basic Instincts premiered. It's still an obstacle, oftentimes, finding queer characters in our culture who thrive in the world. As much as Brokeback made its impact, Jack's demise seems a throwback to tragic characters and desperation. Or is it? The film is too rich in detail to be so easily dismissed but the question lingers.

Television has helped us catch up. Will & Grace was a refreshing change, even if the jokes grew stale sometimes. Rosie's on The View. Ellen is America's sweetheart again. We're all over Showtime and Bravo and LOGO, of course. We ARE making cultural progress, no longer invisible. And, praise the Goddess, no longer solely tragic.

So, I'm proud, focused. I remember our history, what we need to do to be represented, to be heard. And, I know I am blessed every June to belong here, with all of you. See you at Pride!

LGBTQA TEEN SAFE HAVEN BEGINS AT PLANNED PARENTHOOD OF NEPA IN READING

Berks GLBT Youth -- looking for a non-judgmental place to meet new people, learn new things, see great movies, network with other lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered and questioning youth and their allies (LGBTQA) from all over Berks County? Planned Parenthood of North East Pennsylvania's LGBTQA Teen Safe Haven is about to open its doors!

Meetings will offer positive role models, peer support, education and recreation for LGBTQA youth and their allies ages 14-18. Meetings are Wednesday evenings from 5:30-7:30, beginning on June 21 on the 2nd floor of Planned Parenthood, 48 South 4th Street Reading, PA. Use the Franklin street entrance.

FINDING A FRIENDLY SCHOOL

By Elizabeth Goff

When children go off to school for the first time, it is an anxious and exciting time for everyone. But gay and lesbian parents experience an additional layer of angst, beyond the usual separation anxiety. We have raised our children to be proud of our families, but we worry about how the teachers, parents and other children will react. We worry that our child may be given negative messages, be made fun of, ostracized or bullied for being different. Sometimes even the most confident "out" parents find themselves revisiting the question of how "out" to be. We try to be optimistic that most people will be decent and accepting. It's hard during times like these, when legislators are trying to formalize prejudice against us into law.

I am immeasurably grateful that I have found a safe harbor from these worries for my two daughters and their two moms. My daughters are finishing their second year at United Friends School in Quakertown. The philosophy of this school is firmly grounded in the Quaker principles of equality, integrity, peace and community. Quakers have a long history of being on the forefront of movements for social justice -- be it suffragists, the underground railroad and antislavery movement, prison reform, or marriage for same-sex couples.

When I was in my decision process and went to look at UFS, I explained our family structure to the principal, and asked if he thought we would be comfortable. Without hesitation, he said that not only would we be welcomed but that we would be valued and our presence would enrich the community. Our experience has been uniformly true to this statement.

No school can promise there will never be an inappropriate comment between students. Children are at various developmental levels, and are actively learning about the world and how to be with others. At some schools, if a hurtful or ignorant comment is made, a teacher might ignore it or think that the recipient of the comment needs to "learn to deal with it". But at this school, understanding and embracing diversity is part of the curriculum. Such a comment seen as a teachable moment, an opportunity worth interrupting the current academic lesson. UFS is a school filled with academic challenge, but the teachers also know that all

THEATREOUTLET PRESENTS PSYCHO BEACH PARTY FOR PRIDE 2006

Golly gee willickers does Chicklet have problems! Not only will nobody teach her how to shoot the curl, but a crazed maniac is stalking the surf studs and beach bunnies of Malibu! Charles Busch's unhinged send-up of 60's B-movies swirls together equal parts Gidget and Psycho with a dash of its own gender-bending queer outrageousness. Directed by Troy Dwyer. PA Diversity Network's Photo Project -- 100 Same-Sex Couples: Facing Inequality will be on exhibit in the theatre lobby throughout the play's run - June 9 - 24, at Theatre Outlet's space in the SilkWerks Building, 930 North 4th Street, Allentown. Admission: \$10-\$25. For tickets, call 610-820-9440 or visit www.theatreoutlet.org.

EVITA CONCERT AT CIVIC

"Evita" concert plays July 8 & 9 at Civic Theatre in Allentown, 527 N. 19th St., July 8, at 8 p.m. & Sunday, July 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$16, \$14 for students and seniors. (610) 432-8943, or online at www.civictheatre.com

6 CALENDAR

Am Haskalah, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, Services at Allentown JCC at 22nd and Tilghman Streets. http://www.jrf.org/amhaskala, 610-435-3775

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

AIDSWALK-see FACT

ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

All Together Now - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net

BGMG - Berk's County Gay Men's Social Group -- singles and couples social events berkgmsg@aol.com

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <www.civictheater.com>

CUUPS -- Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans every 4th Sunday at noon at the UUCLV, uuclv_cuups@yahoo-groups.com.

Enigma Players - qacres@prolog.net equal@agere- email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

GaydarMagazine - www.gaydarmagazine.com

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Duan & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown www.gloria.1colony.com, glora@dejazzed.com

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, www.gloss.org Info@gloss.org

GLOW@PPL

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"

InfoLine - Greater LV GLBT Infoline: 610-HELP123 (435-7123) M-F 6pm -9pm Office: 610-432-5449 info@padiversity.org

INTERWEAVE -- GLBTAI group at the UUCLV, 3rd Sundays. Interweave_UUCLV@yahoo-groups.com. www.uuclvpa.org 610-866-7652

LVGMC - Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: info@lvcmc.org, <www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Tues.-Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition- 610-610-997-0976, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 JamesHalleman@aol.com

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mclehighvalley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800

Muhlenberg GSA Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 610-767-0296

19th St & Civic Theatre- 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College PA-Diversity Network- 610-432-5449 www.padiversity.org PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA18002

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay And Lesbian Alliance, (Candidate Guide, & Political Lobbying) P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610-863-0227 www.pa-gala.org

PARENTS- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519

JUNE 2006 PRIDE FESTIVAL JUNE 17

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Keith Haring @ Reading Museum	1 RAA GLOSS	2 Fri Nite Live	3 WDIY GLOSS
					Tick Boom	Concert
4 MCC Queer5 and Holy GLOSS	6 LVGMC LV PFLAG	7 HAVEN	8 Tick Tick Boom RAA	9 19th St. Movie	10 GLOSS	WDIY
				GLOSS	Bowling	
1 MCC Queer12 and Holy Anth. Rapp	13 PPL hosts HRC	14 LVGMC	15 GLOSS RAA PDN	16 Tick Boom	17 StevieZ	Pride Festival
			19th St. Movie	@ TO	19th St. Movie	
18 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV MCC Queer and Holy Interweave	19 RAA	20 LVGMC	21 HAVEN M PFLAG	22 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	23 Psycho Beach @ TO	24 Psycho Beach @ TO
			Photo Shoot @ W. Reading		9th St. Movie	
25 GLOSS MCC UUCLV	26 RAA	27 LVGMC	28 HAVEN	29 RAA GLOSS	30 MCC Coffee & Stories	

JULY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Keith Haring @ Reading Museum			1 GLOSS WDIY
						19th St. Movie
2 GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV HMFF	3 RAA	4 LVGMC	5 HAVEN MCC Movie	6 RAA GLOSS Margaret Cho	7 19th St. Movie	8 GLOSS WDIY
9 MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV LV PFLAG Picnic	10 RAA	11 LVGMC	12 HAVEN MCC Movie	13 RAA GLOSS	14 GLOSS / Camping Fact Auction	15 WDIY GLOSS
						19th St. Movie
16 HMFF UUCLV MCC WDIY GLOSS Interweave	17 RAA	18 LVGMC	19 M PFLAG HAVEN MCC Movie	20 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	21 19th St. Movie	22 WDIY GLOSS
23 WDIY UUCLV HMFF CUUPS 30 MCC GLOSS	24 RAA	25 LVGMC	26 MCC Movie HAVEN	27 GLOSS RAA	28 19th St. Movie	29

AUGUST 2006 Keith Haring @ Reading Museum Through August 6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	RAA	1 LVGMC LV PFLAG	2 HAVEN MCC Movie	3 GLOSS RAA	4	5 WDIY GLOSS
6 HMFF UUCLV GLOSS MCC	7 RAA	8 LVGMC	9 Melissa Etheridge	10 GLOSS RAA	11	12 WDIY GLOSS
13 UUCLV MCC GLOSS HMFF WDIY	14 RAA	15 LVGMC	16 HAVEN M PFLAG	17 RAA GLOSS P PFLAG	18	19 WDIY GLOSS
20 Interweave MCC GLOSS WDIY UUCLV	21 RAA	22 LVGMC	23 HAVEN	24 GLOSS RAA	25	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 HMFF UUCLV WDIY GLOSS MCC	28 RAA	29 LVGMC	30 HAVEN	31		

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 www.eastern-pa-pflag.org

Pride - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, e-mail: <info@prideglv.org>, www.pridelv.org

Progressive Students Alliance - www.lehigh.edu/~instpua/vpsa/whatpsa.htm QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College, Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.

RAA - Rainbow AA meetings Monday & Thursdays, 7:30p. 2nd flr Church of the Mediator -1620 Turner St. Allentown, AA Hotline: 610-882-0558.

Rainbow Families - donniearlucas@msn.com Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCVL renly.org

Reading P-FLAG - 610-967-5219

Safe Space - At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Temple Sophia, Interfaith Sanctuary 117 E Ridge St., Coaldrake 18218 570-657-6447 Pastor: Rt. Rev. Tom Cormier

T.O. - Theatre Outlet-, Allentown, 610-820-9270. **UUCL** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VGP - Valley Gay Press, 610.432.5449, VGP@pdiversity.org VGP PO Box 22902

Lehigh Valley PA 18002 www.pdiversity.org

Wachovia-GALEA - Gay and Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat: 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

RAINBOW AA - MON & THURS
BERKS GSA - 2ND MONS
LVGMC REHEARSALS - TUESDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
READING - PFLAG 3RD TUES
LY HAVEN - WEDS
READING HAVEN - WEDS
MONROE PFLAG - 3RD WEDS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - THURS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG - 3RD THURS
GLOSS RAC-BALL-THURS & SAT
INTERWEAVE - 3RD SUNDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS

THRU AUG 6 - KEITH HARING
@ READING MUSEUM
JUN 2-18 - TICK TICK BOOM CIVC
JUN 15 - PHOTO PROJECT @TO
JUN 15 - 24 - PSYCHO BEACH @TO
JUN 16 - STEVIEZ@MOOSELOUNGE
JUN 17 - PRIDE IN THE PARK
JUN 17 - ART ON THE AVE
JUN 17 - PRIDE ART SHOW
JUN 17 - DOGGIE DRAG SHOW
JUN 17-25 - FIND ME GUILTY
JUN 18 - QUEER & HOLY @ MCCLV
JUN 20 - PHOTO SHOOT @
FOUNTAIN OF FEAR

JUN 20 - READING PFLAG
JUN 21 MONROE PFLAG
JUL 22 - MACC PICNIC
JUN 22 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG
JUN 25 - 24 - PSYCHO BEACH @TO
JUL 6 - MARGARET CHO
JUL 1-9 - WAH-WAH @19TH ST
JUL 9 - PFLAG PICNIC
JUL 14 - FACT AUCTION
JUL 14-16 - GLOSS & GLORA
VOLLEYBALL & CAMPING
JUL 15-23 - MOVIE @19TH ST
JUL 18 - MONROE PFLAG
JUL 19 - MOVIE MCC
JUL 20 - POTTSVILLE PFLAG
JUL 26 - MOVIE MCC
AUG 2 - MOVIE MCC
AUG 9 - MELISSA ETERHIDE
AUG 9 - MOVIE MCC
OCT 7 - MCC ANNUAL BANQUET
OCT 8 - MCC ANNIVERSARY EVENT
OCT 11 - 100 COUPLES PHOTO
@ AIR PRODUCTS
NOV 17-19 - PDN ART &
CRAFT SHOW
NOV 18 - LVGMC CONCERT

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!
TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449
INFO@PDIVERSITY.ORG

REPORT FROM ROBERT ROUSH

IN CENTRAL PA, EARLIER THIS SPRING:

"Gay" has been a big subject here leading to the Day of Silence that the Danville High School anti-discrimination group observed the second year in a row. 99% of all press coverage is negative toward the event and the group. The Bible banging is REALLY wild in these parts around this sort of thing. The counter (anti-gay) event "Day of Truth" actually gets radio PSA's, etc. in this area (of course they won't give DOS the same coverage-only negative). BUT press is press, baby. One of the most powerful things the pro-gay group in Danville does is say, "See, look at all this anti-gay reaction. It's obvious why we need to do this."

Steve (Olofson) and I sang at the event they had for participants afterward. Some seemed really mesmerized to see a gay male couple together 17 years. A lot of the kids actually listened and talked to us afterward! Even after a whole day of not talking and wanting to tell each other their stories of the day. It was awesome.

The most incredible thing was that we were asked to sing by the cafe owner who held the event at his restaurant. He is a very straight (but extremely liberal Unitarian) person. This is THE FIRST TIME I ever was asked to come and meet gay youth with no feeling of reticence coming from straight people for the youth. In fact, there was a note of desperation that a couple like us needed to be there. Again, it was kind of awesome.

7

LATEST ON THE STATE CONS. AMENDMENT

The PA State House has voted to pass the PA Constitutional Amendment that would prohibit same-sex marriage, civil union and any other legal recognition of same-sex relationships in the state. The next step was for the amendment to go to the State Senate.

But this just in: The State Senate judicial committee changed the language of the bill and voted to send it on to the Senate for a vote. They left the anti-marriage part but they removed the part that prohibited Civil Unions and other recognitions.

This change does not mean that we would automatically get Civil Union, only that Civil Union would not be prohibited by the Constitution. Civil Union is already prohibited by the state DOMA law, but laws are easier to change than the Constitution. It is also possible that this language change could delay passage of the amendment for a long enough time to push the entire process back.

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

RECENT HISTORY GLBT PRIMER

A lot has passed in order for us to celebrate our pride. Working on the Diamondz Nightclub/Gaydar Magazine float has been a reminder of just how far we have come and also how much work is left to be done. The national theme for Pride month is The Fight for Love and Life. Without going back to the days of Alexander (will anyone be able to utter his name without thinking of that horrid movie?) let's celebrate the 1950's and the Mattachine Society and Harry Hay. While Doris Day was singing of her Secret Love (probably not Rock Hudson) these peaceful demonstrators were demanding "equal civil rights for homosexuals". After years of being targeted for indecency, in 1969, the patrons of the NYC Stonewall Inn fought back. These riots saw gays, lesbians and drag queens using parking meters as battering rams to fight the police.

In 1972 the Diagnostic Statistical Manual finally removed homosexuality as a mental illness. Also in 1972 Jeanne Manford marched in a gay pride parade with her son and PFLAG was born. In 1978 the first openly gay man elected to any substantial political office, San Franciscan Harvey Milk, was assassinated. Also in the 70's, former beauty queen, orange juice pitchwoman and homophobe Anita Bryant ended up with (fruit) pie on her face.

The 1980's put a halt to the decadence of the Studio 54 era. AIDS would strike a devastating blow to the gay community. The Commander in Chief (Ronnie R for those too young to remember) wouldn't utter the word until the latter half of his presidency. The Religious Right called it God's retribution against homosexuality. Hence, Larry Kramer, ACT UP and the Gay Men's Health Crisis took it upon themselves to educate gays and the larger population to the origins of the virus and methods to protect ourselves.

The 90s could only get better. Newly elected President Clinton made us a priority but caved under pressure to Don't Ask, Don't Tell in the military. Martina Navratilova, Melissa Etheridge, Georg Michael (not so voluntary), Elton John, Ellen DeGeneres, k.d. Lang, Barney Frank, Lily Tomlin, Rosie O'Donnell and other notables came out. Jodie Foster, John Travolta, Tom Cruise (thank God) and Michael Jackson (ditto) staid in.

The millennium brought Vermont civil unions, Massachusetts same-sex marriage, many more openly gay politicians and advocates for the gay cause (which is really for the good of all), Will & Grace won a best comedy Emmy, Brokeback Mountain was nominated for a best picture Oscar & Ellen is second only to Oprah (when is O coming out?) in daytime talk.

Use this primer as you see fit... to google some of these names and educate yourself further as to the history of the GLBT movement and to spark a fire under your knickers or pantaloons so you may join in the fight for a brighter future for all GLBT peoples.

Either way please remember these famous words spoken by Oscar Wilde on his death bed - "It would be fitting if Tom Cruise only sired homosexual offspring." Okay, he didn't say that, but he would have. He was a rascal. Happy Pride.



by Earl and Donnie Snyder

FATHERS DAY

Father's Day is Sunday June 18. It's a very special day in our house as our son Lucas has two fathers. As in the last two years, we will probably each receive cards from each other, the grandparents and others, all on Lucas's behalf. The moral support helps now that we have entered the terrible twos with Lucas. Also, it will make up for not getting anything on Mother's Day, although some of our friends were wondering which one of us got to celebrate that holiday. Neither of us did, because neither of us wants to be known as the ugliest mother on the block.

Although Mother's Day does not get much publicity in our house, the concept of a mother is not non-existent to our son. Lucas's birth mother has a very special place in our hearts and we keep a picture of Lucas held by his birth mother, with us at her side, in his bedroom. When he fully understands, he will learn the story of how he came to have two dads, and that he does have a mother like every other child. It is important that Lucas knows that although his family represents the growing diversity among new families, Lucas is also just a normal child like any other. Lucas also has plenty of mother figures in his life. He has three godmothers who treat him as though he was their own. And having two fathers, and two godfathers, Lucas has more than his share of father figures in his life as well.

Lucas had the "opportunity" to see each of his dads in drag at the MCCLV drag show this year. Although he wasn't traumatized by the transformation, he wasn't too pleased either; thus, our conclusion that we were not the raving beauties we fancied ourselves.

Lucas appears content to have two dads. We each have something different to offer him just like a mom and dad do. One of us handles the nurturing very well and one of us handles discipline very well. Lucas knows which one is which, and when he doesn't get what he wants from Dad he tries to work some magic on Daddy. Sometimes his magic is pretty powerful and the dads end up having some lengthy child raising debates on everything from the ideal number of hours we can watch "Elmo Visits the Firehouse" to whether an extra fruit rollup really does take the place of green beans. It's obvious we are stressed, but we love it. Why not? What gay man doesn't love some drama, and when there isn't any, you make some. Speaking of drama, on Father's Day we both get to be the stars.

NEW LEHIGH VALLEY GROUP FOR GLBTA FAMILIES

From Donnie and Earl (and Lucas) Snyder of Planet Parenthood.

If your family would like to be informed about this new group, please join the yahoo group that was established for the Lehigh Valley Rainbow Families at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/LVRF>. Please spread the word to other GLBTA families you think may be interested. For more information email: donniearlucas@msn.com.

FACT ART AUCTION

FACT (Fighting Aids Continuously Together) Art Auction for AIDS. Presenting local artists to benefit AIDS awareness and education. July 14, 7-9 pm, Lehigh Valley Conference Center Best Western. Routes 22 and 512 (in Bethlehem). hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar, Live Entertainment, Donation \$10.00 at the door. More information go to www.factlv.org.

8

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



PRIDE IN THE HOOD

Hello Chipmunk Readers,

I thought I was busy when I lived in the Lehigh Valley with the parade and festival in the park. New York's five boroughs are host to four Gay Pride festival/parades this year. Yes, June is a busy month to be gay in Gotham. Many Lehigh, Northampton and Berks County folks have taken a bus into Manhattan for the big one on the last Sunday in June. What people may not know is that for twenty-two years a Mermaid Parade has livened up Coney Island's Boardwalk the day before the Manhattan Pride Parade. This year the Mermaid parade is scheduled for Saturday June 24. The website from last year shows a nice sized parade led by King Neptune and Queen Mermaid followed by assorted sea creatures and free spirits. I've been meaning to visit the Outer Boroughs anyway so I decided to go into Brooklyn on a gay reconnaissance mission and see if could find the boardwalk without getting lost.

I took the number 2 line all the way to Fulton Street in the financial district and walked across the Brooklyn Bridge. (I watch Carrie Bradshaw do this with her friends seven nights a week and so I wanted to do it too.) I made one stop at Wessel + O'Connor Fine Art, an art gallery located in the Dumbo section of Brooklyn. Some of New York's neighborhood names are actually acronyms. Dumbo is short for "Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass." The gallery is quite close to the bridge on Front Street. The building, a renovated warehouse, is occupied on the second floor with art galleries and spaces for artists to work. On the day of my visit, it was the last day of a Herb Ritts photographic installation. The gallery deals almost exclusively with photography. Some exceptions are made; they held a very successful exhibition of some of Jean Cocteau's drawings. From June 14 through July 28 an exhibit by the Western Photography Guild will be presented, well worth a trip into Kings County.

I got back on the subway and forty-five minutes later I came to the end of the line at Coney Island. I could see the giant Wonder Wheel in the distance. Coney Island is fun to visit. My grandmother visited when she was a little girl. She used to tell me stories about some family member of ours, a retired Russian Cossack. Families could rent ponies 90 years ago at Coney Island and he would rent one for the afternoon. She watched him do circus-type tricks with the pony on the beach. I did not see any ponies, but I did see and eat one of Nathan's Hot Dogs.

As I sat on the boardwalk and watched the seagulls riding the ocean breeze, the Queen Mary II passed by and set out to sea. I thought it was about time another queen should be leaving and I got the Q train back to the city. When the Mermaid Parade comes around on the 24th, I will be ready.

No matter what borough/town you find yourself in, Happy Pride Everybody!

MARDI GRAS BEADS FOR SALE

PA Diversity Network has bags of Mardi Gras beads for sale. They're great for parade tossing and for handing out at your pride booth. A bag of 5 dozen beads is \$6. The beads come in six assorted colors and are 33" long. If you are interested in buying bags of beads, please email PA Diversity Network at info@padiversity.org.

CHECK OUT PA DIVERSITY'S WEBSITE AT www.padiversity.org

PDN LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 15-24 -- PDN 100 Couples Photo Project showing at Theatre Outlet with the play "Psycho Beach Party"

June 17 -- Visit our booth at the Pride Festival

June 20 -- 100 Couples Photo Shoot at Fountainhead Books in West Reading

July 6 -- Margaret Cho Concert and (PDN) Meet and Greet at Easton's State Theatre

August 9 -- Melissa Etheridge (PDN) Dinner/Concert

October 11 -- 100 Couples Photo Project at Air Products

November 17-18-19 -- PDN Art & Craft Show

If you would like to volunteer with PA Diversity Network and the Valley Gay Press, please contact PDN at info@padiversity.org or 610-432-5449. Right now, we need volunteers to hand out Valley Gay Presses at the Pride Festival on June 17. It's an easy way to meet people and get involved.

**FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION
YOU CAN CALL PDN'S
GLBT INFOLINE - 610-435-7123**

INTERFAITH SERVICES AT WOODS

Rev. Tom Cormier, long time member of the Greater LV GLBT Community and Facilitator of Temple Sophia, an Interfaith Sanctuary, is leading Sunday morning Interfaith services at the Woods Campground from 05/28 through 09/03. Services start at 10:30 A.M. in the Oak Grove Sanctuary on the grounds. Follow gravel road past the pool to the treeline, first right path toward the lake and the Oak Grove is immediately on the left. Services vary in format to accommodate the theme of the day. Thursday night services in Coaldale have been discontinued. Other Life rituals and Counseling still available. www.templephobia.org

BUCKS COUNTY LESBIAN ALLIANCE

The mission of the Bucks County Lesbian Alliance is to that enrich lives of and exhibit a positive lesbian community example for members in Bucks County, Montgomery County and surrounding communities.

The Bucks County Lesbian Alliance accomplishes this by arranging supportive and comfortable venues to socialize; providing information and resources regarding lesbian events and issues; participating in community volunteer activities; encouraging communication with other lesbian organizations and keeping abreast of political issues that affect the lesbian community. Please visit the website at www.buckscountylesbianalliance.org.

TICK, TICK, BOOM

Don't miss "Tick, Tick... Boom!" at its Lehigh Valley premiere at Civic Theatre in Allentown, June 2-18. Information and tickets: www.civictheatre.com or (610) 432-8943.

VALLEY GAY PRESS

web site: www.padiversity.org

Publisher, Managing Editor -- Liz Bradbury

Publisher, Editor -- Patricia Sullivan

Columnists: Liz Bradbury, Patricia Sullivan, Denise McKelvey, Donnie Snyder, Earl Snyder, Stephen Libby, Scott Laubner, Sue Sneeringer and others

Valley Gay Press - The Lehigh Valley and Berks County's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Community Opinion and Newspaper (VGP) operates as part of **Pennsylvania Diversity Network**. VGP owns the copyright to its articles and columns. No part may be reproduced without written permission of the Publisher.

VGP offers free copies for direct mail and hand-out distribution to Lehigh Valley area not-for-profit organizations and businesses. The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in the Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

Organizations that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

Metropolitan Community Church of the Lehigh Valley
1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown 610-709-8800

PFLAG Allentown -- see meeting schedule

Pride House at Muhlenberg College, Allentown

19th Street Theater -- 527 N 19th St. Allentown

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Lehigh Valley
(UUCLV) -- 424 Center St., Bethlehem

Haven GLBTA Youth Group at UUCLV

Theatre Outlet, 930 N. 4th St. Allenwotn

Most Libraries in Berks County

Planned Parenthood NEPA 48 S. 4th St. Reading

Businesses that have VGPs for hand-out distribution:

DiamonZ Nightclub -- 1913 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Stonewall Bar -- 28-30 N. 10th St., Allentown

Candida's -- 247 N. 12th St., Allentown

Hava Java Coffee Shop -- N. 19th St. Allentown

Fountainhead Books -- 641 Penn Ave., West Reading

Dreamscape Comics -- 310 W. Broad St., Bethlehem

Valley Gay Press is published 10 times a year monthly, excepting February and September. Deadlines are the 18th of the previous month, except the Pride - July issue which is earlier. The membership cycle of PA Diversity Network begins in January. Circulation: 1500-2000 papers per issue. Readership: 3500.

To Contact Valley Gay Press:

Mail to: PO Box 22902 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002

Phone: 610-432-5449 Email: info@padiversity.org

To arrange for your group or organization to receive copies to distribute, contact VGP. Some restrictions apply.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name/s _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 Phone _____

Senior dues (over 65) \$5
 Individual dues \$15
 Family dues \$20
 Berks County (2006) - Free

Please fill out this form and mail it with your check to PDN.
 Make checks payable to **PDN**.

LEHIGH VALLEY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

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PO BOX 22902
LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

BERKS COUNTY RESIDENTS MAIL TO:

PDN
PO BOX 242
MERTZTOWN, PA 19539

BECOME A MEMBER OF PA DIVERSITY NETWORK TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS

YOU CAN GET A FREE SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY GAY PRESS IF YOU LIVE IN BERKS COUNTY

A grant from Berks County Community Foundation to Pennsylvania Diversity Network (PDN) -- financially supports the expansion of the Valley Gay Press to a 12 page paper. The paper now covers Berks County. The grant will also support mailing the Valley Gay Press to Berks County GLBTA households for 2006.

Berks County Residents --To get your free 2006 subscription to the Valley Gay Press just email PDN at info@padiversity.org, or call PDN at 610-432-5449 or mail in the form on this page to give us your mailing address.

CIRCULATE YOUR GROUP'S INFO

This is not only an opportunity for Berks County GLBTA people to receive the Valley Gay Press, but a free way for GLBTA friendly groups and organizations to get their information to hundreds of new people in Berks County. If you represent a pro-GLBT group or organization, or if you would like to start one, email PA Diversity Network (info@padiversity.org) or call the PDN offices at 610-432-5449 to find out how to list and circulate information about your group. It's free.

BERKS AND LEHIGH VALLEY SERVICE PROVIDERS AND BUSINESSES

List your GLBT-friendly business on the PA Diversity Network web site. Go to the resource page at www.padiversity.org and just fill out the form on-line.

Check out PDN's web site to find GLBT-friendly businesses and service providers. Nearly 200 verified GLBT friendly listings are included.

EDITOR'S FYI FROM LIZ BRADBURY

A reminder that PA-GALA and PA Diversity Network are two different organizations.

PA-GALA - Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance fights for your rights nationally, in Harrisburg and at the grassroots level. Steve Black of PA-GALA sends out legislative alerts and information to help our community fight things like the State Anti Marriage Amendment. Steve and PA-GALA have been mailing the VGP as a perk to its members for 8 years and will do so for all PA-GALA members who paid their dues for 2006 in 2005 for the rest of this year. PA-GALA will not be mailing the VGP to its members after this year. But you should still support PA-GALA by paying PA-GALA dues (\$25, \$35) because PA-GALA is the largest and most active grassroots lobbying organization in PA and it costs the organization quite a bit to do all it does for us.

PA Diversity Network produces the Valley Gay Press, runs the GLBT Infoline, runs the PDN Resource Web Site, supports other GLBTA organizations, advocates for GLBTA people's rights on a case by case basis, and presents workshops on GLBT issues. Currently we are doing several community events as well, and producing the 100 couples photo project: facing inequality. We are also working with PFLAG on their Berks library grant and working to fulfill our Berks grant. The PDN dues, which bring you the VGP are \$15, \$20.

We hope everyone supports PDN, PA-GALA and all the other GLBT service groups in the community.



LIZ OUT LOUD®

By Liz Bradbury

MY COMMENTS AT THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN PRESENTATION

It's Pride month and I'm proud to live in Allentown, the only place in the Lehigh Valley that has a Human Relations Commission and an anti-discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation and gender identity. We fought for its passage, fought off a referendum effort and a law suit. And our law still stands to protect Allentown workers and citizens.

I'm proud to live in a district - this district right here, where we are now... where our State Representative (Jennifer Mann) voted No to the hateful State Constitutional Amendment that seeks to deny my family legal recognition forever. It passed anyway through the House and right now is being considered by the State Senate.

The organization I direct, PA Diversity Network is working to put faces to the danger of this amendment. Our Photo Project: 100 local same-sex couples: Facing Inequality has its first public showing this Thursday at Theatre Outlet. I hope you can all attend.

One of the participants in the project said that his State Representative told him that Pennsylvania is a good place for Senior Citizens and Health Care...but that it would probably be better for gay people to just leave the state. The young man replied: I'm physical therapist for seniors-- if I leave the state - who will provide healthcare for my patients? At the time our photo project had 87 couples' pictures... among them, there were no less than 42 healthcare professionals. Including 7 Registered Nurses, 4 hospice workers, 2 pharmacists, an MRI operator, many practical nurses and 3 physicians. Yet Pennsylvania, which is faced with rampant brain drain and a constant exodus by the professional and creative class, is pushing an amendment that will accelerate the loss of the very people Harrisburg should be seeking to attract.

I hope all the leaders and elected officials here will speak out strongly about this, and encourage the State Senators in the Lehigh Valley, especially those of your own party, to vote NO on this terrible amendment.

Meanwhile, the business community could do their part. Major employers, like Lehigh Valley Hospital and Saint Luke's Hospital and innovative businesses like PPL and Air Products should be leaders in providing domestic partner benefits to their employees. But they still resist and they lose or fail to attract excellent employees because of it. Domestic partnership benefits do not cost a business more money, but they still resist. Perhaps soon, I will be able to be proud of our major local employers for their fairness and leadership. Until then, I can only hope.

There's one more thing I'd like to add that I didn't say at the HRC presentation.

You absolutely have no obligation to forgive or tolerate those who support this constitutional amendment. The line in the sand has been drawn by the introducers and backers of this hateful and discriminatory act, who see nothing wrong with using human beings for political gain, or think it is reasonable to base discrimination on the idea that somehow their families are better than our families. We would never try to take their right to protect their families away, but that is what they are trying to do to us.

Be out, be public and be earnest about this amendment and how negative and painful it is, so that everyone you know, knows where you stand. There is no excuse for supporting discrimination against a minority group, it is wrong, it is shameful. While no one should be intentionally rude and certainly should not be violent toward anyone, remind yourself that those who continue to back this terrible amendment are not worthy of your respect. You can change the minds of many people but if you have explained to a person what this amendment would do, and they still back it, they are not your friend.

TRISH'S COLUMN®

By Patricia Sullivan

YES, LET'S GET PERSONAL

Sociologists point out that relationships are revealed socially to the extent that they are legitimate and marriage is the most socially visible of relationships. "Relationships" not considered to be legitimate are more likely to be concealed by partners or ignored by employers, friends and family. However, the constant barrage of conservative rhetoric is intended to create a sense of shame and social isolation in gay men and lesbians. They don't want us to exist so they employ every device to insure our invisibility.

The greatest weapon we have against conservative America is the fact that we have the same capacities as heterosexual men and women for being in long term committed relationships and for parenting and overall professional success. When heterosexuals personally know a gay man or lesbian or have personal contact with a same-sex family, they are more likely to support our rights. This is what scares conservative America - the fact that we are simply "a lot like them" - God Forbid!

So it is important that we personalize the debate that is going on in our State and in the Nation with regard to same-sex marriage. Because, whether or not you personally want to get married, the procurement of same-sex marriage rights is essential to the full entitlement of our civil rights. Many in our community are already party to the process of putting a human face on the need for a full complement of civil rights for GLBT people.

These include: Members of our community who participate in groups like GLOW @ PPL, GLISN @ Dunn&Bradstreet, GLEE @ Air Products, GALEA @ Wachovia and Equal @ Agere are a constant reminder that gay men and lesbians are integral to the success of these major companies. The GLBT youth who openly participate in Gay Straight Alliances, model a courageous and forward sense of being, for other youth. The Rainbow Families participate in fun events in the community at large. They are "out there" mingling with non-GLBT families, and demonstrating that our families side by side with theirs, aren't really that different.

Also working continuously: The Members of the Metropolitan Community Church who annually organize and all who participate in the Freedom to Marry Day Courthouse Event, where same-sex couple apply for marriage licenses. PA-GALA members who openly lobby legislators and public officials on behalf of our community. PA Diversity Network which challenges businesses and professional service providers to accommodate the unique needs of our GLBT families.

There are many more of you out there of course, and each and everyone who is "out" to any non GLBT person is participating in this action. Every little bit helps.

Finally, PA Diversity Network's Photo Project: 100 Couples Facing Inequality is one example of personalizing the debate by Committed same-sex couples coming forward to put a face on our community. This project is extremely public and very emotionally powerful. If you are a committed couple consider taking this opportunity to participate in showing Pennsylvania residents we are not invisible.

KEITH HARING: JOURNEY OF THE RADIANT BABY

Don't miss the Keith Haring art exhibition at the Reading Museum. The show will run until August 6. Haring, was born in Reading and raised in Kutztown. He became a world renowned artist by his late twenties, but died of AIDS in 1990 at the age of 31. His powerful work is a must see!



POP QUIZ 12

Name That Tune (that contains this phrase). See song list below:

1. Don we know our gay apparel...
2. We'll have a gay old time...
3. Make the yuletide gay...
4. Was I gay? Until Today, now he's gone, and we're through...
5. Cast out by the ones he loves, a victim of these gay days it seems...
6. It means that gay Paree is gay!
7. I would feel free to say, that I was gay...
8. While you've a lucifer to light your fag...
9. You can hang out with all the boys, they have everything for young men to enjoy...
10. Bisexuals, trisexuals, homosapiens, carcinogens...

A:Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas B:Am I Blue C:1st song from Victor/ Victoria D:La Vie Boheme E:Decks the Halls F:YMCA G:The Killing of Georgie (by Rod Stewart) H:Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag I:Theme From the Flintstones J:If You Were Gay (from Ave Q)

1.E 2.I 3.A 4.B 5.G 6.C 7.J 8.H 9.F 10.D

VALLEY GAY PRESS BOOK REVIEW

"The Complete Saki," Penguin Books \$12.95

For a perfect summer read try picking up an old favorite... this collection of the work of Saki (real name: Hector Hugh Munro) includes over 130 short stories, three novels and three plays and sports an introduction by Noel Coward. Through written 100 years ago, this vast body of work is amazingly fresh and contemporary. Many of the stories are under four pages long, but they manage to paint amusing pictures of the privileged class as seen through the eyes of an obviously gay, brilliant and somewhat bored young man who uses a sharp knife to pry up the upper crust and expose what's beneath. Sample the stories - his work is available on line - <http://arthurwendover.com/arthur/munro> - then buy the book to take to the beach.

QUOTE #5

"This amendment was a shameful attempt to divide the American people." -- Unitarian Universalist President William G. Sinkford responding to US Senate's rejection of the Federal Marriage Amendment

QUOTE #6

"There is no hierarchy of oppression." -- Audre Lorde

We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA Diversity Network

GLBT Infoline

PA-GALA

Valley Gay Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh Valley

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater

19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

Touchstone Theater

Congregation Am Rodef

The Lehigh Valley Progressive Students Alliance

The Consistory of St. Peter's UCC - Allentown

To add your organization to this list, Contact VGP

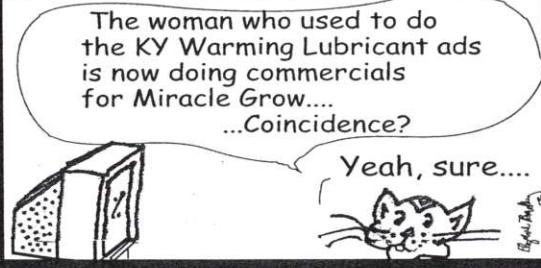
QUOTE #1
 "This amendment is discriminatory, a waste of taxpayer time and money, and bad for Pennsylvania's economy...The more people learn about this amendment, the less they like it, which is why it has been rushed throughout the process." -- **State Representative Dan Frankel on the PA State Constitutional Amendment that prohibits recognition of same-sex families**

QUOTE #2
 "...NOT because so many of us hold marriage as something that we want so badly (although many of us are in real positions of needing those rights when it comes to our real lives with our partners)...but because we need to teach our children and society at large that EVERYONE deserves EQUAL treatment and that EVERYONE deserves to have the same CHOICES as everyone else. If we DONT have the same CHOICES and if we DONT have the same rights, we are continuing to spread a message that some people are not as valuable as others and therefore we can beat them and throw them to the curb as was done to Kevin." -- **Ari Gold on why we need to be out and the hate crime against Kevin Aviance.**

QUOTE #3
 "It is a real threat to millions of Americans when the Republican leadership stands on the Senate floor and gives license to treat gay and lesbian Americans as second-class citizens," -- **Human Rights Campaign President Joe Solmonese on the Republican justification for the Federal Marriage Amendment**

QUOTE #4
 "There was a time, during my parent's generation, that in certain parts of the country the prevailing Christian opinion was that blacks and whites shouldn't legally marry. In fact, it would take activist judges on the Supreme Court in 1967 to overturn a law in Virginia, which had made interracial marriage a crime... And there was a time, during my grandparent's generation, that in certain parts of this country, including the great state of Pennsylvania that the prevailing Christian opinion was that Catholics and Lutherans didn't marry! Thank God my grandparents went against the prevailing cultural opinion to marry so that one day I would be born..." I was surprised by the clapping which followed my remarks." - Rev. Karla Fleshman, Imago Dei MCC, Glen Mills, PA who spoke out at a senior citizen breakfast against a State Rep touting the State Marriage Amendment

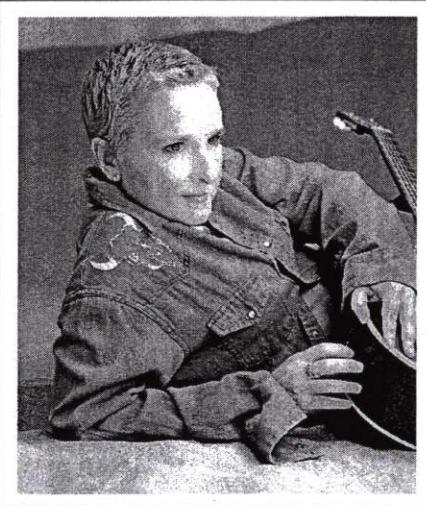
Distelfink © 7/06 "Subliminal?"
 by Ruby Zebu



The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Gay Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VGP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE!

"COME TO OUR WINDOW!"
JOIN PENNSYLVANIA DIVERSITY NETWORK
FOR THE BETHLEHEM, PA MUSIKFEST EVENT OF THE YEAR
MELISSA ETHERIDGE



**PRE-CONCERT
DINNER
AND
SPECIAL VIP
CONCERT SEATS**

CALL MUSIKFEST'S TICKET OFFICE:
610-332-FEST (3378)
REQUEST TICKETS FOR
PA DIVERSITY NETWORK'S
"COME TO OUR WINDOW"
EVENT

AUGUST 9 -- DINNER AT 6PM -- CONCERT AT 8:30 PM

TICKET PRICE: \$109, INCLUDES:

- PDN's private buffet dinner - including vegetarian & non-vegetarian selections
- Dinner served at Musikfest in a spacious air conditioned tent (remember, this will be in August!)
- Cash bar
- Private air conditioned restroom just for PDN dinner guests
- PDN swag bag
- Dinner entertainment by local jazz singer Roberta Meek
- A chance to support PDN and all its programs for the GLBT community, especially the effort against the Constitutional Amendment - the PDN Photo Project: Facing Inequality
- Giant projection viewing of the PDN Photo Project: Facing Inequality
- And a VIP Section ticket to the

MELISSA ETHERIDGE CONCERT!

These are the closest tickets to the stage, now available!

**GET YOUR TICKETS NOW
FOR THIS ONCE IN A LIFETIME EVENT**

For more information about this Dinner and Concert event and other PDN programs, including the Valley Gay Press, call the PDN offices at: 610-432-5449.

PDN PHOTO PROJECT: FACING INEQUALITY

Photos of 100 local same-sex couples will serve to remind the mainstream public of the discrimination and inequality our community will experience if the proposed anti-same-sex relationship amendments to the State and Federal Constitutions are successful.

PA Diversity Network's Photo Project of 100 same-sex couples continues. The project now includes 92 photographs of local couples and they look great.

To be part of this project you and your same-sex partner must be a "committed couple" and must be out and willing to have your picture with your names on it viewed by many people. You must live in or have lived in Pennsylvania. There will be many exhibitions of this project and there will be a poster.

Tuesday June 20, 6-9pm - PDN (Pennsylvania Diversity Network) Photo Project: Facing Inequality - 100 same-sex couples will be featured in an exhibit supporting diversity in Pennsylvania. On Tuesday night, Fountainhead Books, 641 Penn Ave, West Reading will sponsor a photo-taking event where same-sex couples from Berks County can come to have their photo taken for the project! Refreshments will be served and both Earth Rhythms and Fountainhead will be open during the event.



Justin Lee & Adrian Anchondo
Teacher Actor
Together: 6 years



L. Kyle Walker & Mary Sue Bridi
Physician Physical Therapist
Together: 10 years



Tim Hare & David Ball
Architect Hsptl Dir. of Pastoral Care
Together: 30 years



Phil Healing & Kendall Goble
Contractor Control Systems Engineer
Together: 13 years



Vilash Morcisiol & Carmen Ocasio
(With Denial of Marriage License Form)
Together: 11 months



Charlene Bergstresser & Robin Koch
Nursing Director RN
Together: 14 years



Laura J. Marie & Mary Ellen Elizabeth
Home Health Caregiver Retail Bakery
Together: 19 years



Ron Smith & Lawrence Sarwono
Financial Consultant Software Developer
Together: 4 years



Melissa Eberts & Kristy Swope
Tech Support Machine Operator
Together: 8 years



J.F. Ellstrom & John H. Hubert
Travel Agent Retired
Together: 47 years



Gerald R. Schmidt Jr. & Charles Woodbury Jr.
Bartender Bartender
Together: 17 years



J. Renae Bennett & Chris Boes
Application Chemist College Professor
Together: 13 years

**IF YOU ARE PART OF A
COMMITTED SAME-SEX
COUPLE AND
YOU MISSED THE 1ST
PA DIVERSITY
NETWORK
PHOTO PROJECT:
FACING INEQUALITY
PHOTO SHOOT,
YOU CAN HAVE
YOUR PICTURE
TAKEN
RIGHT NOW!
AT THE
PRIDE FESTIVAL
COME TO THE PDN BOOTH**